

REMARKS

This paper is in response to the Office Action of October 8, 2004. The due date for response extends to January 8, 2004.

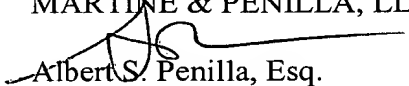
Claims 19-28 have been cancelled. Claims 1-28 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Benson (US 6,567,879). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As noted above, the claims have been amended to clarify the disabling of the output of the communication signals that isolate the first and second bus segments from one another. In the isolation mode the communication signals received on either bus segment are allowed but not transmitted to the other bus segment. Thus, in isolation mode, both buses can operate independently from one another. As taught by Benson in Column 3, as noted by the Examiner, "*...in the preferred embodiment, in full bus mode SE to SE isolator 26 provides connection (bridging) between even SCSI bus 19 and odd SCSI bus 39 and isolator 46 is disabled. In split bus mode both SE to SE isolator 26 and SE to SE isolator 46 are disabled.*" Thus, Benson teaches that in full mode, one of the isolators will be turned off in favor of the other bus, so that the other bus has full access to both buses. This operation is similar to the operation of the prior art described in the background of the Applicants invention. That is, if one side wants to access the bus, then the other bus will be inactive or disabled for other initiators. But, as now claimed, in isolation mode, communication is allowed in either bus segment. For at least the reason noted herein, it is submitted that Benson fails to teach each element of the independent claims. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the § 102 rejection.

A Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning the present amendment, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at (408) 749-6903. If any other fees are due in connection with filing this amendment, the Commissioner is also authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-0805 (Order No. ADAPP190). A duplicate copy of the transmittal is enclosed for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,
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